



MARCHE CHASE PARK

Neighborhood Workshop # 1

October 23, 2003

MEETING REPORT

Workshop time: 6:30 to 8:30pm

Workshop location: Washington Elementary School Cafeteria, 3515 Harlow Rd., Eugene

Workshop facilitator: Philip Richardson, Landscape Architect, Parks Planning Section

Other City staff present: John Clark, Maintenance Manager, Natural Resource Section

BACKGROUND

City of Eugene Parks Planning staff hosted the first of two or three neighborhood workshops to discuss upcoming improvements to Marche Chase Park. Improvements to the park are funded by the Parks and Open Space bond measure passed in 1998 by area residents. The workshop included a brief presentation on the project, the process, and the context of the park. This was followed by a general, informal discussion of issues and ideas relating to park improvements. Goals for the evening included providing information to the neighborhood, and gathering ideas for a new park development plan. About 23 neighbors and interested parties, including City staff, attended the workshop.

ADVERTISEMENT

Advertisement for workshop #1 included the following:

- A postcard invitation was mailed on October 9th (14 days prior to the workshop) to 294 resident addresses within the park service area, but generally not including addresses north of MLK Jr. Blvd, which is not within the defined service area.
- Postcards were hand delivered and flyers posted where possible in the housing complexes north of MLK Jr. Blvd. The park site was also posted with flyers.
- Email invitations and postcard mailers were sent to other interested parties and stakeholders, including neighborhood leaders and city councilors.
- An article on the event was included in the October issue of the Council Newsletter.
- A news release was distributed on October 15th.
- The workshop was included on the City Manager's Office public meetings calendar
- The workshop was announced in the City/Region section of the Register Guard preceding the event.
- The workshop was announced in a news item on KUGN radio October 22nd.
- KVAL TV news broadcast a short item on the workshop on October 23rd.

PRESENTATION

Meeting participants convened at the Washington Elementary School Cafeteria. A comment sheet was handed out, and participants were encouraged to fill it out at the workshop or to send it in to the parks planning office afterwards (the comment sheet is available for downloading on our website http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/Marche_Chase/MCH_comments_1.pdf). A brief introduction was given to the 1998 Parks and Open Space bond measure and the role of Parks Planning in the development of POS projects over the next few years. A map showing other acquisitions and projects in or near the Harlow neighborhood area was presented and discussed. Goals for the meeting were listed as the sharing of information about the park project with and amongst neighbors and generating neighborhood-specific ideas for park improvements.

The planning process was outlined briefly and it was explained that there will be more opportunities for public comment in the future. The schedule was given for park construction which, barring any unforeseen obstacles, should be in the summer of 2005. The existing park site was reviewed, including a description of its history and major elements. The park consists of 5 lots donated to the city for a neighborhood park in 1973 by Bruce and Katherine Chase, and was named Marche Chase Park in honor of Bruce's mother, who was instrumental in preserving the natural area. Site elements such as trees, wildlife, topography, access, setback requirements, circulation etc. were described. Factors influencing the park site were discussed including its close proximity to Autzen stadium, Alton Baker Park, and the medium-density housing to the north, as well its relationship to the adjacent neighborhood homes. In general it was explained that the site presents a number of constraints due to its relatively small size, many mature trees and somewhat rolling topography that occur over about 70% of the site, and finally to the limited bond measure funding available, approximately \$120,000.

DISCUSSION

With a group of about 21 neighbors, a productive discussion was held around issues and ideas for the park. All participants had an opportunity to share ideas and comments, and were asked to list issues, concerns, ideas, preferences, etc. for improvements to the park. A list is provided following this summary for a more detailed report of participant comments.

It was explained that the current adopted park master plan, the 1989 Eugene Parks and Recreation Plan, was still the guiding document, but that a new comprehensive parks, recreation and open space (PROS) plan was being developed, and should be completed by the end of 2004. For more information about the new PROS plan, please see our website http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw/parks/PROS/PROS_home.htm. The general concept of a neighborhood park was discussed, in contrast to a community park and a metropolitan park.

According to the 1989 master plan, a neighborhood park is meant to be walked, not driven, to and thus is supposed to serve approximately a half-mile walking radius. The purpose of a neighborhood park is

- to provide a location for neighborhood social, recreational and fitness activities.
- to provide significant open space and identity for specific neighborhoods.

Furthermore the kinds of facilities and features a neighborhood park should have include

- Playgrounds
- Sports field(s) without lighting
- Restrooms and storage areas
- Hard surfaced court areas

- Open lawn areas for informal play
- Picnic areas
- Other features dependent on such things as natural amenities, buffering requirements, views, utility easements, etc.
- Parking areas – only when on-street parking is too limited.

It was explained that larger or more intensively used facilities were generally not developed in neighborhood parks, but in larger community and metropolitan parks.

The participant group had varying opinions on park development; a few felt that no development was best, but most felt that some **low-impact development** which would encourage children's play, and enable neighbors to access and socialize informally in the park was appropriate. Facilities discussed included such items as a flat play field area, a small playground, paths, benches, trash receptacle, drinking fountain and possibly picnic tables. Participants provided some feedback about what kind of playground they would prefer. Wooden, more naturalistic, and naturally colored structures were strongly preferred to colorful plastic ones. Some kind of integral public art was supported. Structured active recreation such as ball fields or courts and skate parks were generally not preferred by most participants, and site constraints would severely restrict design options for these kind of facilities. Expressly desired uses for the park included children's playground, benches, walking, nature enjoyment, bird-watching, relaxation, socializing and informal active recreation.

Park lighting was not discussed, but the budget limitations will very likely preclude the addition of lighting. Safety and visibility were seen as important issues for the park. **Negative use patterns** were discussed, specifically that some neighbors use the park as a dump site for their residential yard waste, and that many people walk their dogs in the park but do not clean up after them. There was also concern expressed about new development drawing users who would misuse the park facilities. It was explained that the neighborhood can be an important, positive influence in the park by using it, activating it with their presence, as well as supporting facilities and programming activities that encourage positive uses. CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) was also mentioned as a method of influencing how a park is used, and how safe it feels. See http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/police/Comm_Policing/crime_prev/cpted.htm

The participant group strongly agreed that the one of Marche Chase parks main assets was the **natural area with large mature trees**, and that any design should respect, preserve and enhance this area. Improving the existing path through the natural area was seen as desirable. Overall maintenance of the area was a concern, especially the areas around the downed logs which were overgrown with weeds and blackberries, and where wood debris remained. The **downed logs** were seen as both amenities, and as eye-sores and possible safety hazards. Some participants favored their complete removal and others expressed appreciation for the opportunities for play, education and wildlife habitat they added. Staff explained that most of the downed trees from the Feb 2002 windstorm were removed that summer, but that a few of the larger ones were left pending the neighborhood park planning process. In some other parks where efforts have been ongoing to improve native habitat, staff has received neighbor requests to bring in large diameter logs, and have had difficulty doing so. In the discussion of park play elements, the naturalness and attraction of the logs was seen as a benefit, and could be enhanced by the addition of a few boulders to climb on.

There was general concurrence around the idea of providing **native trees, shrubs, and ground covers** in the park especially to buffer the adjacent neighbors from the more heavily used areas of

the site, but also to increase the habitat quality for birds and other wildlife. Staff mentioned that local trends have been leaning towards a blend of parklands and natural areas. Participants appeared to support this idea, and suggested the addition of plants that would provide some fall color such as Vine Maple and Pacific Dogwood. Managing the natural area to maintain the tree cover over time was discussed and the idea of planting young trees to overtime replace the aging mature trees was supported.

In general participants understood and agreed with the **need to provide accessibility**. Several people commented on how difficult it is to walk across the site, and there was significant support for improving access, via sidewalks and perhaps through bark mulching the existing path through the southern park of the park. It was explained that the City currently prefers to use engineered wood fibers as a playground surfacing to comply with ADA.

Several participants shared their enthusiasm for making use of neighborhood volunteers and donations to help stretch the budget and move the project forward.

The following is a general list of issues raised and then ideas presented by participants and staff during the workshop.

Issues

Access/ Circulation

- There are **no sidewalks or accessible paths** in park. Access now is difficult for those with limited mobility, and impossible for those in wheelchairs.
- **Topography** in the more natural area is difficult to traverse for some.
- **Holes, divots and debris** across the site make walking hazardous.
- The **existing path** across the site on the south side is much used by pedestrians and bicycles.
- On Autzen stadium **football game days**, traffic is extremely heavy, and all parking spaces are used.
- Don't want to see a bunch of **traffic and kids**.

Facilities/Design

- The **openness of the site** is very nice.
- Make it **feel safe**. Park borders should allow clear visibility into the park to reduce safety issues and inappropriate uses of the site.
- **Leave it** alone, just the way it is.
- Please be sure to make the **playground area safe** with good natural visibility.
- Overall park **maintenance isn't good** enough.
- Concerns about **improper use** of park, noisy kids, creating a place for them to hang out and smoke.
- No need to worry about deer.
- **Wildlife** used to be more present in park. How could park attract more?

Vegetation

- **Downed trees are hazardous** because roots are too high, there are lots of weeds and blackberries around them, and the holes where the roots were are dangerous.
- The natural area is the best part of the park, the **downed logs** should be kept.
- **Poison oak, ivy and blackberry** exist in a few spots. Please remove.
- The maintenance of the **edges of the park** next to streets is not good, they need to be

- regularly edged.
- Tall grass is an eyesore. The park does not get enough **mowing**.
- Arborists need to **evaluate all the trees**. They have a history of coming down.
- Not enough variety to existing vegetation.
- Several people said they collect the fruit to make pies and applesauce.

Use Patterns

- The park could be a great asset to the neighborhood, **and increase property values**.
- The **neighborhood character changes over time**, now there are many retired people but younger families with children are moving in.
- The park could be a **neighborhood gathering place**, and allow for parents, kids and everyone else to get to know each other.
- Don't want to attract **students** from across MLK Jr. Blvd. who will be noisy and abuse the park.
- **Children play on logs**. Already a great attraction, but a safety issue too. Weeds around logs are ugly. Need to improve **safety and aesthetics**
- Neighbors use the park for their residential **yard waste dumping**.
- **Dog walking** is a popular existing use, and a place is needed for it.
- **Off-leash dogs and scoop law not being obeyed**.
- This neighborhood is **parking central** during game days, don't create a place for tailgates.
- Nothing can be done about **game day parking**, and it's only about 6 days a year.

Ideas

Access/ Circulation

- Make the park **accessible**.
- Provide good **points of access** to the park.
- Create **sidewalks** around the perimeter of the park.
- Use bark or gravel to **resurface the existing path** through the natural area.
- Make the existing path **bicycle accessible**, and have paths that criss-cross.
- Provide **walking trails** to connect park elements.
- We need a **bench and paths** to and enjoy the park.
- **Grade it flatter** to make it safe to walk.
- **No sidewalks** please.

Facilities/Design

- An **unirrigated open field** for informal play.
- Leave the park completely **natural**, don't do anything to it except clean it up.
- Preserve the **natural area** but make a **place for kids** to play too.
- **Multi-use courts (Tennis etc.)** would be great.
- No **Basketball court** or other hard surface courts.
- Have a **wooden play structure**, not a garish colored plastic one.
- Employ principles of **CPTED** (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).
- **Horseshoe courts** would be good. Staff mentioned that in other neighborhood parks where they've been built, they are rarely used.
- Let's have a **picnic table**.

- Let's **not have picnic tables and barbeques** since they will attract tailgate parties on game days.
- Have the children's play equipment located on the **flat side of the park**, but far enough away from the adjacent residences, and houses across the street.
- For play equipment be sure to have **swings, seesaws, slides**.
- **No restrooms.**
- **Create a sanctuary** for kids.
- Have **imaginative** play areas.
- Make **concrete play sculptures** like Skinner Butte has.
- Provide **functional or educational art**. The park was known once for sightings of a rare bird species, maybe address this through some signage.
- Provide a **children's playground**.
- **Street trees** would be nice.
- Provide a **buffer** between playground and the adjacent homes.
- Encourage kids to **play in the woods**.
- **Keep and improve the existing natural play elements**. Maybe add some rocks around the logs.

Vegetation

- Use **native plants** - low-maintenance, environmentally friendly, good buffer for neighbors and wildlife.
- Create some **mode 3 field areas** that will be mowed more often. *(Staff explained the different mowing regimes from rough mow to highly irrigated and manicured. Mode 3 is low growing unirrigated turf that is mowed more frequently during the wet season.)*
- Improve **natural areas**. Manage them so that they will last for a long time – plant young trees.
- **Prune, clean up, and remove dead wood** in the trees.
- Provide a **shrub layer** for wildlife habitat, variety, and color.
- Encourage things that **attract birds** such as nesting boxes, and plants they like.
- Allow some **blackberries for eating**.
- **Remove poison oak, weeds, blackberries, and other woody debris** that is still lying around the site.
- **Remove** the fruit trees.
- **Keep** the fruit trees.
- Add plants that will bring more **spring and fall color**.

Use Patterns

- Please have **signs** for dog owners reminding them of the leash and scoop laws. Could have bags attached. Be sure to have a garbage can.
- **Enforce existing laws** regarding dogs in parks.
- Provide **rules signs** to discourage negative uses. A park sign and interpretive signs would be good.
- Park should be **multi-generational** - provide something for all ages
- Keep **views open** from the street into the park.

General

- Provide for some **volunteer** opportunities.
- Figure out how to get **donations** of money or time or in-kind donations

FINDINGS

Based on feedback from workshop participants and comment sheets, it is clear that the natural area is key to the identity of the neighborhood and any development must be sensitive to it. A low-impact, relatively minimal development of typical neighborhood park facilities seems also to be appropriate. This might include sidewalks and a connecting path or two, a flat area of turf appropriate for informal play, benches, a small play area possibly with a picnic table, and a restored natural area. Due to site constraints, the turf and play area will probably need to be developed towards the flatter western side of the site away from the large trees. The natural area should be cleaned up, made safer, and the habitat for birds and wildlife improved. Trees, shrubs and plantings should be used for buffering the street and more active play areas. Of course, budget constraints will impact what is able to be accomplished in the park.

CLOSING

Participants were reminded that there will be at least one more public meeting for Marche Chase Park, probably in February 2004, and they were encouraged to watch the City/Region section of the newspaper as well as their mailbox for invitations to this event. It was explained that, at the next workshop, participants will be able to respond to a park design that will be developed based upon discussions and priorities from today's event, and from the comment sheets turned in. Participants or other interested parties are welcome to discuss the project or submit comments at any time via phone, email or delivered mail.

ATTENDEES:

The following parties were at the first workshop and signed in on the attendance sheet:

Denise Abbott	Mike & Deanna Hochstein	Lynne Toensing
Barbara Beebe	Bob & Shirley Kingsbury	Jerry Towle
Ron & Terri Benedict	Donald L. Lamb	Jan Wagner
Keith Corbin	Russ McCabe	Michelle Winetrout
Ara Eissler	Doug McKay	Jennifer Witter
Terry Froemming	Barbara Roberts	Lorraine & David Yeazell
John Fry	Bob Tallman	David Yetter

COMMENT SHEETS

The following comments were recorded on comment sheets provided at the workshop and turned in to City staff at the end of the event.

Total comment sheets handed in at meeting: 2

Total comment sheets mailed in following the meeting: 11

1. *In what ways do you think the Park can **benefit** you, your neighborhood, or your community?*
 - **A quiet piece of nature, and a place to be and think**

- **Passive open space**
- **Providing a place for my small children to play safely, for my dog to run around, and for my community to gather and get to know each other better.**
- **It can be a quiet place to enjoy nature, appreciate the large trees, etc. It's a place we can take our dog (we do pick up after her). We can visit with neighbors. Children can play in a natural environment without "man-made" structures.**
- **I think it will increase quality of life, property values, and most importantly, it will connect the neighborhood children to each other and their natural surroundings.**
- **By leaving it alone! Leave it as open space! We love it just as it is. We were promised when we moved here that the park would remain the way it was!**
- **Beauty and open space**
- **Place to meet neighbors, walk dogs (no waste!) Bike through, relax.**
- **As an unimproved open space. This area was semi rural just 10 years ago and is now fully developed. A little piece of the forest is greatly appreciated.**
- **With improved access, some well placed paths, a bench or two and some judicious pruning and trimming, we think the park will be more attractive to everyone who comes near it.**
- **We live directly across the street (Chevy Chase) from the west side of the park. In fact, our house can be seen in the background on one of the photos on the web site. Visitors can easily see our house on their occasional visits to the park. We see the park every day, every time we look out our bedroom window or open the front door. We have had the pleasure to walk through the park for the last fifteen years and enjoy its natural beauty. My sons have built forts, climbed on trees, gathered apples, and played hide and seek among the trees.**
- **God was the landscape architect that designed the "park." To think you can improve on God's work is presumptuous.**
- **It can provide an open space for area residents that is maintained in a well kept manner by the City. We purchased our house three years ago partly because of the adjacent park and the open space with its mature oak tree and well kept grounds.**
- **Enjoy a natural setting**
- **Interact with others who live in the area**
- **Form a closer sense of community with neighbors**
- **As many of my neighbors stated at the first workshop, our decision to purchase a home in the Chevy Chase neighborhood was driven in large part by our desire to live close to natural areas, open space, and bikeways. Having a small neighborhood open space park was an extra benefit.**

2. *What do you feel are some of the **most important** issues facing the park?*

- **Very little change – leave. No Sidewalks! Low impact paths – yes.**
- **Leave it as is**
- **The most important issues facing the park are the lack of accessibility to it. I never walk through it because I'm afraid I will twist my ankle in one of the many divots or my son may get hurt playing on all the downed limbs and trees.**
- **Maintenance and safety. Remove the downed tree that is now covered with blackberry bushes. Ivy and blackberry abatement. Over-use if improved. Keeping the ecosystem intact. Evening out the terrain in the grassy areas**

- The park should be designed with young families in mind. There are a lot of childless people, retired and otherwise who would prefer to see no children's activities or even children in the park. They prefer to let it remain a poop park for their dogs rather than allow it to become a place where all neighborhood children can go to enjoy a slightly modified version of nature. A Community version of nature. It doesn't have to be like every other children's park, but it should be designed for the next generation as much as for adults
- People like you who want to ruin it!
- Better access, level walking paths. Mow more often. Limit development – no plastic play structures, no restrooms
- Safety, not disturbing character, low improvement ratio, enhancing and replacing.
- Lack of maintenance
- You already have a good handle on the issue of safety. We heard and agree with concerns about excessive noise. We don't see parking as an issue as there is no cure for the Autzen game day parking situation and anyone wishing to drive up to the park on those few days will just have to deal with it. We don't think improvements to the park will impact the parking issue in any significant way.
- After reading the comprehensive summary of the Washington meeting and the several pages of comment sheets, I have come to many of the conclusions that you have regarding the "level" and "type" of improvements that should be made to the park.
- Unwanted government interference in our neighborhood. Instead of asking our opinions on the "upcoming improvements", first find out if we want this project to proceed at all.
- One of the important issues facing the park is to preserve the open space with its mature trees and well kept grounds while considering the safety issues of the unattractive, dangerous root balls on the four fallen trees. Another issue is how to make the park more useful for the neighborhood, such as paths around and through the park, while keeping the park essentially as it is.
- Student housing across the street. The park could become a student gathering area.
- Loose dogs and owners who do not pick up after their pet.
- Late night hours
- Use of the park after UO football games
- Several years ago in the month of June I called the Parks Department because I was concerned that the tall dry grass in the park posed a fire danger, especially since I had seen teenagers setting off fireworks in the park. A staff member explained to me that Marche Park was managed as a natural area and could not be mowed until a certain date to allow ground birds to nest and their young to fledge.
- I reviewed the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan. I am assuming the planning goals for Marche Chase should tier from that Plan. Some of the goals that I felt were relevant to Marche Chase planning include: 1) improve the natural resource values of developed and open space parks, 2) eliminate invasives, 3) reduce mowed areas in developed parks, 4) improve habitat by decreasing grass, and 5) give top priority to acquiring natural areas.

3. *What existing features or aspects of the park site do you like most, or feel should be preserved?*

- Leave a few logs
- Trees

- The existing features I like most are the large, established trees, and they should be preserved.
- Trees – forest in the city. Open spaces. Non-developed atmosphere
- No question – the trees. The fallen trees, as long as they don't constitute a hazard for children. Hendricks Park but with more under-canopy art, wildlife homes, feeders, natural play areas, etc.
- All of it! Leave it as it is! No playground! No picnic tables! No anything!
- Trees and open space
- All except grasses and maintenance
- All
- We like the natural feel of the park. We'd appreciate keeping as many of the trees and plants as are safe to be there. We've been among those who've partaken of the wormy apple crop for cooking up a batch of applesauce or cobbler now and then. We've enjoyed the lilac bush and the daffodils that are there. However, we would not protest change to the landscape and would welcome new color (vine maple and Pacific Dogwood were mentioned as examples at the meeting) and variety in whatever plantings fit the new plan.
- See answer to # 1 (referring to God as the landscape architect)
- I have spelled these out in question #1. (referring to well kept open space, mature trees)
- A park-like setting
- Retain as many trees as possible, but the park users should be safe from falling limbs
- this small park exhibits a fairly high diversity of native plant species many of which are associated with forest landscapes rather than urbanized parks. A number of invasive, non-native plants exist (blackberries, english ivy and scotch broom) but in amounts that could be controlled with manual treatment.

4. *What do you think needs to be improved or changed most?*

- Ivy and blackberries out
- Clean up Feb 7th, 2002 blow down
- I think two things should be changed. One being we need a trail or walkway of some kind (I love the brown colored aggregate idea) to pass through the park. Another being that the park needs a purpose. I'm not a bird watcher or a person who overlooks the park from my home, so to me I'm thinking a park should have a draw to it. Like a play structure, a path, a dog meeting place, a large grassy field to play Frisbee or kick a soccer ball around, etc.
- Go to a mode 3 in the grassy areas around the perimeter of the park, especially on the west side, smooth the terrain of those areas. Removal of ivy, blackberries, the one downed tree covered by berry vines. Remove the large root balls on the downed fir trees.
- No dog poop. It's currently a sewage plant for some neighborhood dogs. Better access (sidewalk, paths). Natural things for children to climb upon. Small animal statues, fixed garden Art, etc. Bird nests, bat houses, butterfly houses, and bird feeders. Anything that attracts wildlife
- Keep the grass/weeds mowed and trimmed. Remove the trees that fell during the big storm. Stay the heck out of there!
- Perhaps more diversity in terms of trees and shrubs. Keep the lilac, holly, apples,

rose bush and the natural vegetation. Remove blackberries, ivy, and poison oak. Grade the larger open areas to make the surface safe to walk or run on. No irrigated grass

- Remove or reduce high grass areas, provide more maintained area and trash cans, benches and paths.
 - Nothing
 - A path or two through the park would be nice. The tall, uncut grass has pretty much kept us out of most of the park, especially during wetter weather. We would also welcome a bench or two so that there would be a place to rest and just soak in the peace of the park.
 - Access – construct a sidewalk around the perimeter of the park. This would provide safety for pedestrians and access to the park. Improvement of the natural path on the south side of the park would provide access to the interior of the park.
- Cleanup – Remove blackberry overgrowth to allow more play areas. Remove dangerous root balls.

The city's decision making process and priorities. The money allocated for this unnecessary and unwanted project could be used to help the needy.

- I really believe that some of the available money should be spent to mitigate the danger imposed by the sharp roots on the fallen trees that stick up at least eight feet into the air. I have observed children playing on the fallen trees several times including trying to climb up on the root balls. I believe that the City would be liable in the case of anyone being hurt as a result of this neglect.

For my part, I believe that the fallen trees should be removed. If you go out to the park and look at these fallen trees, you will see that weeds and blackberry bushes are taking over this area around the trees.

- Regular mowing of the grass
- Planting flowering seasonal bushes
- Paved walking paths through the park
- Lighted areas (i.e. bathroom, along walking paths)
- I do believe Marche Chase Park's natural assets can be enhanced and its value to the neighborhood increased. I would support the construction of several non-hardened pathways through the park and the addition of bench and fountain areas similar to those in Hendricks Park. These features would draw and hold people into the park.
- Invasive species could be controlled. In the past few weeks the City has had crews in the park clearing invasives; this has been a major step forward. Neighbors could take over the invasive species control providing them an opportunity to work together as a community.

5. *What are some of the **activities and/or facilities** you would like to see happen in the park? (Please refer to the attached general list of activities and facilities, but feel free to add items that are not on the list)*

- Walking
- None additional
- I would love to see a wooden play structure there, or some logs and boulders. Anything kids could entertain themselves with. Maybe a big sandbox?
- I would not like to see concrete structures or pathways through the park. A sidewalk along the perimeter next to the curbs could be helpful for accessibility issues. Gravel or bark paths in the interior might be nice. Perhaps a doggie-doo

- station on the SW and SE corners of the park. Large boulders placed near the fir logs would make nice climbing places for children to play
- No picnics or picnic tables. Nature appreciation classes for children.
 - Kids playing hide and seek through the trees. People walking their dogs. What we're doing now, leave us alone!
 - Perhaps some limited "gathering" and/or seating areas. Better access, level walkable surfaces, sidewalks perhaps.
 - No change, natural landscape - add boulders.
 - Those that currently happen, walking, hide and seek, etc.
 - We liked the idea of a natural playground (rocks, stumps, logs, etc) It's a great place for kids to explore and use their imaginations. We are not opposed to a couple of swings or a teeter-totter, but agree that the "plastic, primary color" equipment is out of character with this particular setting. Having a little more manicured (shorter grass) open space near the apple trees where you could kick or toss a ball or Frisbee around would be nice.
 - Play areas – This may be the most controversial for the neighborhood. Some neighbors want NOTHING and others want up scale play equipment with teeter-totters, monkey bars, and slides. Your challenge will be to design play areas for the kids and not offend the neighbors who prefer that the park be left in its "natural state." Since it is already a play area, it should only be enhanced by very natural play areas. I don't think that the existing logs offend anyone, nor do I think that large boulders for kids to climb would anger any long time neighbors. Grading the west side (right across from my house) isn't absolutely necessary, but it might enable better game playing in the area. These additions to the park would allow children to play safely and would not offend any of the people who will resist any change. Play area summary – Leave Logs; Add boulders; Level west side (mode 3)
 - Children are using this area. It's unspoiled naturalness allows them to run freely and lets their imaginations soar.
 - I think the neighbors would appreciate a walking path through the park that is installed and maintained in a safe manner that is in keeping with the natural surroundings in the park.
 - Fixed benches
 - Bathroom
 - Picnic tables
 - Drinking fountain
 - Garbage cans
 - Play equipment for children
 - Open areas for recreational sports
 - Parking for bicycles

6. *What other considerations are important for the success of this park?*

- Mow the weeds 2 or 3 times per year
- Other considerations are to put in smaller trees and shrubs for that lower level of vegetation. Seems that there's just low grasses, then huge trees, with nothing in the middle. Also, taking all the downed trees out would be great
- Safety for people. Safety for trees and animals. Safety of nearby property owners. Leave the apple trees! Planting some trees for the future. Clear vision into the park

- to prevent vandalism and other illegal activities
- The most important aspect in my view is that the children, those who don't vote or have a say in the politics of this city, are taken into consideration. This neighborhood contains quite a few families with working parents who may not have the time to attend the meetings. It's important for this park to remain unique, and natural, but not simply so that people can keep treating it as a dog sewage treatment facility.
- That if you start messing around with it you'll ruin it, won't have the money to keep it up, and will increase traffic and other problems in our neighborhood.
- Limit the development, no over development. Develop the 'natural' vegetation. Screen the chain link fence. Better maintenance
- Birds, wildlife, multipurpose use, low impact.
- Remove storm debris when it happens. Trim curbs since this is in an improved residential area.
- We hope that improvements will be simple and in keeping with the character of the current park and that whatever changes are made can be maintained.
- Maintenance – As your report stated, another type of grass would cut down on the necessity to mow as often.
- I would like to have some additional effort scheduled in the near future to remove existing downed limbs, weeds, and blackberries, and a regular mowing schedule. I would like to see a policy established by the City to remove trees that fall down in the park in the future.
I would think that some planning should be undertaken in the near future that would preserve the type of park that is in existence now. This effort should involve the City's Landscape Architects and possibly students in Landscape Architecture from the University of Oregon. Such topics should include types of trees that should be planted now instead of waiting until the mature trees either fall down or are taken down because they become hazards.
- Regular maintenance
- Regular garbage pick up
- Enforcement of the leash law for dogs
- Water to keep the grass green in the summer
- Effective response to area residents when concerns of park use arise

7. *Any other comments?*

- Thanks, you were really perceptive of our overall direction
- Sidewalks around the park streets would be the best improvement
- Lastly I want something to come of this great space. I would hate for all the older folks in the neighborhood to start a petition to stop development in the park. I feel that the older folk in the neighborhood need to understand that the area is filling up slowly with new, younger families and a true park with a purpose is needed instead of an ugly field that is truly an eyesore to potential home buyers. Can't wait for our next meeting to see what you guys come up with!
- Remember the line from "A Field of Dreams"? "Build it and they will come." This could be applied to this park in a positive or negative way. By improving the park it will be used more by the neighborhood. By changing it too much, it could become a destination for people from elsewhere. It could become a party place during Duck game days. It could also become a gathering place for groups of people, generally youth, to smoke or do drugs. Boy Scouts are always looking for possible Eagle

- projects. If you wanted an Eagle candidate to work on a project like this, call the scout office and they will advertise for a boy who wants this sort of project.
- Yes, for several years now we've been told the city doesn't have the money to remove the fallen trees. What makes you think you'll find the money to maintain any so-called "improvements"? This neighborhood has to put up with massive traffic jams every time there is a duck game at Autzen. Please, please, please don't bring any more cars here. Go pick on another park to "improve"! Please leave this park alone!
 - Thank you for your efforts and patience with the cranky and negative people. Plan for future trees, when older trees die or blow down.
 - A bark path through the middle of the park would be nice.
 - This park is what attracted us to the neighborhood fifteen years ago. I hope that any plan that you propose will not change the natural beauty and appeal of the park.
 - When we bought this house in 1989 we were told that the unimproved land across the street would stay that way. This was the deciding factor in our decision to buy.
 - I appreciate the planning that went in the Neighborhood Meeting that was held October 23rd at Washington Elementary School. It seems that this is one of the better ways to get feedback from the people who live in this area and have concerns about improvements and maintenance of this park.
 - I hope the City will decide to implement a proposal that preserves many of the natural elements found in the park. That approach would better blend with the character of the neighborhood and reduce the need to expend public funds to acquire natural areas.